

**Centre Wellington Scoped Tier 3 Water Budget and  
Local Area Risk Assessment Study  
Community Liaison Group Meeting #1**

Tuesday, November 8 | 7:00 – 9:30 pm  
Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex  
550 Belsyde Avenue, Fergus

**Meeting Summary**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Ms. Susan Hall, the facilitator from Lura Consulting, welcomed Community Liaison Group (CLG) members and thanked them for attending the session. Ms. Hall introduced the facilitation team from Lura Consulting and led a round of introductions. She reviewed the meeting agenda and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to orient members to the Centre Wellington Scoped Tier 3 Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment Study process.

The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix A, while a list of the meeting attendees is included as Appendix B.

**Role of the Community Liaison Group**

Ms. Hall reviewed the mandate, role, and terms and conditions of CLG membership with members as described in the CLG Terms of Reference. She explained that the Centre Wellington Scoped Tier 3 Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment (the study) is a detailed scientific undertaking to assess risks to the Centre Wellington drinking water system. Ms. Hall reviewed the list of the key project participants as well as their roles and responsibilities during the study. Ms. Hall also explained that the CLG functions as a forum to facilitate a two-way flow of information between the project team, stakeholders and members of the public within the scope of the Tier 3 study. It was noted that this is the first Tier 3 study to include stakeholder and public engagement in the study process.

CLG members were given the opportunity to ask questions of clarification regarding the terms and conditions of membership as outlined in the Terms of Reference. CLG members subsequently confirmed their interest and agreed to the terms and conditions.

The CLG Terms of Reference is available on the project [website: \(www.sourcewater.ca/CW-Scoped-Tier3\)](http://www.sourcewater.ca/CW-Scoped-Tier3) .

## Community Liaison Group Meeting #1 Summary

### Study Process and Key Participants

A detailed overview of the study process and key participants was presented by:

- Martin Keller, Lake Erie Source Protection Region Program Manager, Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA);
- Kathryn Baker, Hydrogeologist, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC);
- Colin Baker, Managing Director of Infrastructure Services, Township of Centre Wellington; and
- Patricia Meyer, Senior Hydrogeologist, Matrix Solutions Inc.

A summary of the salient points from the presentation are provided below.

- Mr. Keller welcomed CLG members and reiterated that this is the first Tier 3 Study to include stakeholder and public engagement. He noted that he is looking forward to working with CLG members throughout the study process. Mr. Keller explained that the study team includes staff from the GRCA, Township of Centre Wellington, Wellington Source Water Protection, Matrix Solutions Inc. (project consultants) and Lura Consulting (third-party facilitator). The project team is responsible for undertaking the Tier 3 Water Budget for drinking water systems in the Township of Centre Wellington with funding provided by the MOECC.
- Ms. Baker outlined the province's interest in the study and explained that a water budget completed previously for the watershed resulted in a high level of uncertainty regarding the sustainability of municipal drinking water in the Township of Centre Wellington due to growth and future takings. The Tier 3 study is being completed at the direction of the Minister of the MOECC, and is viewed as an important project to enhance knowledge of water resources in the area.
- Mr. Keller explained that an independent review of the technical results of the Tier 3 Water Budget will be completed at each major milestone in the study process by a provincial peer review team comprising the following individuals:
  - Christopher J. Neville, S.S. Papadopulos & Associates Inc.;
  - Dr. David L. Rudolph, University of Waterloo; and
  - Dr. Hugh R. Whiteley, University of Guelph.
- Mr. Baker provided an overview of the Township's water storage and distribution system noting that it includes four elevated storage tanks, nine wells, operation and maintenance infrastructure (e.g., water vales, fire hydrants and watermains), and a booster pumping station that has the ability to move water between Fergus and Elora to keep up with fluctuating demand. The system operates within the context of the provincial legislative and regulatory framework for the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- He noted that it is estimated that by 2041 the Township will have to accommodate 20,425 more people and 10,810 more jobs. This growth will likely take place within serviced areas of the Township.

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- Ms. Meyer reviewed the study process and how groundwater modelling is completed first at a conceptual understanding level and then using a mathematical model. She noted that a water budget is prepared to quantify the volume of water entering, moving through and leaving an area to ensure communities can plan for occasions when they have least amount of water available, such as long term drought conditions.
- She also explained that the purpose of the study and desired provincial and municipal outcome is to determine whether the Township's water resources are at risk (i.e., can keep pace with current and anticipated water demand) and to develop a tool that can be used by Centre Wellington to make more informed decisions about managing their future water resources.
- Ms. Meyer noted the study includes four components and three deliverables:
  - 1) Background Review and Data Collection,
  - 2) Physical Characterization and Report 1,
  - 3) Groundwater Modelling and Report 2,
  - 4) Risk Assessment and Report 3.

The study is still in the early stages of the Background Review and Data Collection.

- The study components are sequential and require provincial peer review and sign-off before work on the next component can begin. The CLG will be given the opportunity to provide input during each of the three phases (i.e., physical characterization, groundwater modelling, and risk assessment).
- Mr. Keller advised CLG members that meeting materials (e.g., agenda, meeting summary, presentation, etc.) will be made available through the project website. Questions or comments from CLG members between meetings are to be directed to Mr. Keller.

A copy of the presentation is included as Appendix C.

## Facilitated Discussion

### Questions of Clarification

A summary of the questions of clarification is provided below. Questions are noted with **Q**, responses are noted by **A**, and comments are noted by **C**. Please note this is not a verbatim summary.

#### **Q1. How does a risk assessment differ from a risk management evaluation? Is the evaluation another step in the process?**

**A.** Yes, a risk management measures evaluation is one of the steps in the source water protection water budgeting framework. If a Tier 3 risk assessment identifies a risk to the local area's water supply, the model developed during the Tier 3 study is used to complete a risk management measures evaluation project to simulate different measures that could be implemented to mitigate the risk on the municipal water sources. Upon completion of the City of Guelph Tier Three, the City will undertake a risk

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management measures evaluation project to identify ways to mitigate the risks placed on the municipal water resources, using tools developed in the Tier 3 Assessment.

**A.** A risk assessment identifies the problem, whereas the risk evaluation identifies the management solutions that could be implemented to reduce the problem; it is a separate process.

### **Q2. Is any consideration being given to use Lake Belwood as a municipal water source?**

**A.** At present, the Belwood Lake Reservoir is not considered a municipal drinking water source and will not be included in the study as a municipal drinking water source. Consideration for new water sources would be addressed through a municipal water supply master planning process.

### **Q3. I understand the study is based on municipal boundaries, but how does the Tier 3 model integrate with other boundaries (e.g., watershed scale)?**

**A.** The selection of the study area and the size of the model domain will be sufficiently large to consider the cumulative impacts of all nearby water takers, including the potential impact of one municipality on another. Matrix Solutions is completing the City of Guelph Tier Three Assessment and ground water flow modelling and predicted water levels from that study will be consulted to guide the application of parameters (values) applied in the Centre Wellington groundwater flow model.

### **Q4. Will the final report include conclusions about the data only, or will it provide recommendations to Council? How far will the report go in terms of defining the science and giving advice to decision-makers?**

**A.** At this time, funding has been allocated to complete a technical assessment (i.e., identify if there is a risk or not). The long-term objective is to determine how to manage risk if it has been identified. There will be opportunities to discuss what the next steps might be, but we are not there yet.

**A.** The report will identify gaps in data or key uncertainties which may help the Township or anyone else doing research in the area focus their work.

### **Q5. Is there a list of technical terms that can be pulled from the Tier 2 study?**

**A.** The Tier 2 study focuses on the Grand River Watershed. It was completed in 2009 and provides context for this study. You are right that the technical terms are likely already defined in another report.

**A.** The Project Team is also working on developing a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that will be updated as the study progresses, and will prepare a glossary of terms.

### **Q6. [Member of the general public on a private well] Will the data or study results be available to individuals who are not Township staff to help us plan our farming operations?**

**A.** The GRCA is working with the province and other partners to develop a framework to make the technical results from Tier 3 models accessible to different audiences. It is a complicated process and requires some thought about how they are stored, maintained and accessed.

**A.** As part of the study, Matrix Solutions will produce maps of groundwater levels based on different scenarios (e.g., climate change, land use, projected growth, etc.) which may help answer some of your

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questions; the maps will however provide a broad characterization of the study area and are not intended to offer property specific details.

**A.** The maps also provide Centre Wellington with a tool as they start to evaluate potential new water sources to do predictive modelling about the potential impacts to private wells.

**C7. I have observed stakeholder engagement processes evolve over a 30-year period, beginning when civil service completed studies and made decisions without involving stakeholders. It is extraordinary to see the modelling opened up at the front-end of the process to include stakeholder engagement in this study.**

**Q8. How does the Tier 3 consider other municipal water users such as RMOW and Brantford?**

**A.** The Tier 3 will consider the impact of increased municipal takings on all water users in the area including other permitted water takers and the natural environment. Changes to groundwater discharge into streams, such as the Grand River, and impacts to provincially significant wetlands will be evaluated as a part of the study. The extent of the study area is currently being determined through a review and analysis of available information, and will be sufficiently large enough to evaluate the cumulative impact of groundwater pumping on other water users.

**Q9. How does the Tier 3 get implemented?**

**A.** Following the tragedy in Walkerton, the Province passed the “Clean Water Act” that aimed to protect municipal drinking water sources from water quality and quantity risks. From a water quantity perspective, a tiered set of technical studies were commissioned with Tier One representing a high level evaluation of the water budget of the area (water in vs water out) on a broad watershed scale. If the percentage of water being used in that area exceeded the amount moving in by a prescribed amount, then a more detailed study was required (Tier Two study). The Tier Two Study evaluates the components of the water budget on a smaller (subwatershed scale) and the amount of water moving in/out is refined. The percentage of water being used on the subwatershed scale is compared to the amount available and if the percent used exceeds a threshold, then the municipal water supplies in that subwatershed require a more detailed water budget study (a Tier Three Study).

Within the Grand River watershed, a Tier Two water budget study was completed in 2009 for the entire Grand River watershed through the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Program. The study looked at how water levels change in the watershed under current groundwater withdrawal and climate conditions and future groundwater withdrawal and drought climate conditions. The Tier Two Water Budget study identified several subwatersheds within the Grand River watershed that exceeded the provincial threshold and were classified as having a moderate or high potential for hydrologic stress. Subwatersheds with a municipal water supply system that have a moderate or high potential for hydrologic stress triggered the need for a more refined water budget study – a Tier 3 Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment study. Within the Grand River watershed, Tier Three studies were initiated for the Region of Waterloo, City of Guelph, Centre Wellington and others.

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### **Q10. Will corporate data be included and how does it get included (ie Nestle, Highland Pines)?**

**A.** The project team is interested in data from local water takers including geological information, well water levels, and the results of well tests. This information will be used in developing the conceptual model of the area and in calibrating the groundwater model. Every effort will be made to include relevant corporate data in the study. The project team is reaching out to large non-municipal takers through the Community Liaison Group and can also request support from the province to obtain any corporate data to support the study. All data, regardless of the source, will be reviewed and put through a QA/ QC process by the project consultant. Data that is found to be erroneous or inconsistent the conceptual model of the area is removed from the dataset.

### **Q11. Will this study provide information on the health of our deep aquifers?**

**A.** The study will evaluate the long term groundwater availability within the shallow (e.g., Guelph Formation) and deep (e.g., Gasport Formation) water supply aquifers within and surrounding the communities of Fergus and Elora. This work will assist Centre Wellington staff in their proactive work to ensure the communities have adequate water supplies to meet their water demands, now and into the future.

### **Q12. Where are the recharge areas for the deep aquifers and what will the Province do to protect them?**

**A.** “Significant groundwater recharge areas” were mapped across Ontario as part of the Source Protection studies commissioned by the Province. In some areas, largely outside the Grand River watershed, policies are in place to protect the quantity of water recharging the groundwater flow system.

In addition, protection for vulnerable areas not directly associated with a municipal drinking water system has been included in the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014, which sets out provincial planning policy for municipalities to incorporate in their Official Plans and planning approvals.

### **Q13. Will the study help with water conservation?**

**A.** The study may recommend that water conservation measures within the communities of Fergus and Elora be enhanced to help reduce the current and future water demands and help extend the long term sustainability of the water supply aquifers in the area as the communities grow. The data from the study will allow the Township to explore different options for future water supplies such as focusing on well optimization instead of searching for new well locations.

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### CLG Aspirations and Expectations

A summary of the shared aspirations and expectations discussed by CLG members is provided below.

- Multiple participants were pleased to see stakeholder involvement from the beginning of the study process as well as a commitment to being transparent and learning from each other.
- The group discussed the value of meaningful stakeholder and public engagement as a means to raise awareness about water issues and to generate support for potential solutions to reduce risk in the future.
- Participants discussed the need to use plain and accessible language and terms when describing technical components of the study. The development of a “living” FAQ and glossary was suggested.
- Participants identified a strong interest in making the study results available and accessible to different audiences (e.g., members of the public, interest groups, decision-makers, etc.).
- Participants recognized a diverse spectrum of skill sets, professional backgrounds and perspectives as well as a common interest in water quality and conservation that will enrich the study process. A few participants also conveyed an interest in developing a better understanding of water resources in the area while improving the decision-making tools available to different agencies.
- Participants identified interest in understanding the implications of the study results on various sectors and individuals (e.g., real estate, agriculture, recreational, families, Township, Province, etc.). A few participants expressed particular interest in the area’s deep aquifers (e.g., current conditions, sustainability and protection over the long-term) and learning whether the growth targets set by the Province are achievable given the Township’s water resources.
- Multiple CLG members shared a willingness to share data and information (e.g., water takings, contacts, etc.) to help advance the project.

### Next Steps

Ms. Hall explained that the draft meeting minutes will be circulated to the CLG within two weeks. CLG members agreed to review and provide any comments on the minutes within one week of receiving them. The minutes will subsequently be posted to the project website. The project team and CLG agreed that the group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30; the next meeting will take place in winter 2017 (date TBC).

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### Appendix A – Agenda

#### Centre Wellington Scoped Tier 3 Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment Study

#### Community Liaison Group Meeting #1

Tuesday, November 8

7:00 – 9:30 pm

Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex

550 Belsyde Avenue, Fergus

#### **Meeting Purpose:**

- 1) Review the mandate and role of the Community Liaison Group (CLG); and
- 2) Orient CLG members on the study process, scope and key participants.

#### **AGENDA**

- 7:00 pm      **Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions**  
Susan Hall, Facilitator, Lura Consulting
- 7:10 pm      **Role of the Community Liaison Group**  
Susan Hall, Facilitator, Lura Consulting
- *Questions of clarification about the role of the CLG or the TOR.*
- 7:40 pm      **Study Process and Key Participants**  
Martin Keller, Project Team & CLG Point of Contact  
Patricia Meyer, Matrix Solutions Inc.
- *Questions of clarification about the study process.*
- 8:40 pm      **Roundtable – Expectations and Aspirations for this Study**
- *What knowledge and skills do you bring to the CLG table?*
  - *Bearing in mind the study scope, what outcomes are you hoping to see for this project?*
- 9:20 pm      **Wrap up and Next CLG Meeting**
- 9:30 pm      **Adjourn**

## Community Liaison Group Meeting #1 Summary

### Appendix B – List of Attendees

#### A. Community Liaison Group Members

Member	Organization
Andreanne Simard	Nestlé Waters Canada
Chad Hurell	Fergus Golf Club
Colin Richardson	Public Representative
Dave Blacklock	Wellington Water Watchers
David Bevan (alternate for Richard Moccia)	University of Guelph Aquaculture Research Station
David Parker	Public Representative
Derek Graham	Chamber of Commerce
Don Vallery	Highland Pines Campground
Eric Clarkson	Murray Group
Fred Gordon (absent)	Elora Business Improvement Area
Jan Beveridge	Save Our Water
Larry McGratton	Friends of the Grand River
Pete Graham	Landowner
Tom Nudds	Public Representative
Vic Shantora	Public Representative

#### B. Project Team Members

Core Team	Support Team	Organization
Martin Keller Sonja Strynatka	Ilona Feldman	Grand River Conservation Authority
Patricia Meyer Paul Martin	Jeff Melchin	Matrix Solutions Inc.
Kyle Davis	Michelle Cuomo	Wellington Source Water Protection
Colin Baker		Township of Centre Wellington
Kathryn Baker		Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Ray Blackport		Blackport Hydrogeology
Susan Hall	Lily D'Souza	Lura Consulting

Martin Keller  
Sonja Strynatka  
GRCA  
400 Clyde Rd.  
Cambridge, On N1R5W6

November 8, 2016

Re: Centre Wellington Their 3

Dear Martin and Sonja,

We have a few questions, if you don't mind. Some of these may be addressed this evening, but others not. We are indeed thankful for your decision to engage the citizenry in this process. While not wanting to make your lives more difficult, it seemed wisest to address questions and concerns right at the start. We will send this letter as an email in order that you can farm some of the questions out to those on the team who could best answer them.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Best regards,



Dave Blacklock



Jan Beveridge

We would like clarification of what this study is. On page 7 of the ToR, "the objective of the assessment is to determine the risk to the Fergus-Elora municipal drinking water system to meet current or planned water demand based on takings, growth, and other water users in the Township. The purpose seems now to have changed to be more of a tool, a model, into which future updated data can be plugged.

1. Since much data (e.g. from a WSMP) is unavailable, when this project is finished, will it be understood that it is not actually finished?

2. How can we access Stephanie Shifflett's revised Tier 2 for the Irvine Assessment Area?
3. *What planning horizons and population figures is this assessment using; is it looking at planning for 2041?*

**Questions about data:**

4. With Middlebrook pump test data unavailable, will this study have access to prior pump tests and monitoring data for the Middlebrook well?
5. Does the project team have access to monitoring data from the Ontario Geological Survey monitor well on the property beside Middlebrook?
6. Will the Township be able to supply historic well construction details and original and historic static water level data for municipal wells? This key information, which is listed in the ToR as 'available data from the municipality' was not available from the Township at a meeting in October this year.

**Concerns about data from the Growth Management Plan:**

The Stantec group is using the 'permitted amount' of water that can be taken for each well for the purpose of calculating each well's 'existing capacity' (their calculation is highest peak amount subtracted from permitted amount equaling 'existing capacity'). This is a concern.

7. How are they accounting for those wells with drinking water exceedances (aesthetic) in the analysis of well capacity? Are they aware that some wells are not pumped at permitted capacity due to poor quality?
8. How is capacity measured for wells that show mutual interference, so that increased pumping is not additive?
9. Stantec is aware, but is not factoring in, that the wells have been tested for capacity on an individual basis but have not yet been tested for capacity when pumping simultaneously. With actual pumping capacity of the individual system wells not known, how can the feasibility of the allocated and planned growth be assessed?
10. The GMS is not taking into account the approximately 1 out of 8 households in the Fergus-Elora urban areas that are not on the municipal water system. This situation poses risk to the municipal system, as is a recognized issue in Puslinch township. Should this risk affect the planned growth numbers for the municipal system?

**Questions about the conceptual and numerical groundwater models and water budget:**

11. We would like certainty that an intent of this study is to identify the recharge area. What geological formations (aquifers) are going to be included in the project and how are the recharge areas going to be found for each?
12. Regarding using the model from the Golder 2013 TCW Wellfield Capacity Assessment, is it understood by everyone that in this study the projected population for the Fergus-Elora urban area was significantly understated?
13. The Golder 2013 TCW model was based on the presence of aquitards between conductive bedrock formations. With pumping from deep aquifers, and sewage treatment plant discharge into the Grand River, in the water budget how do you balance this groundwater consumptive use (QDemand)?
14. What figure is being used in the model as the static water level for the Middlebrook artesian well?
15. How is the Elora Gorge going to be represented in the model?

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Jan Beveridge  
Dave Blacklock

RE: Centre Wellington Tier 3

Thank you for your letter provided at the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Community Liaison Group Meeting. The letter included a number of questions which you requested be answered. In the following correspondence, the Centre Wellington Tier 3 Project Team has prepared responses to the questions raised in your letter.

We hope this provides some clarification to the process.



Sonja Strynatka, P.Geo.  
Senior Hydrogeologist  
Grand River Conservation Authority



Martin Keller  
Program Manager  
Lake Erie Source Protection Region

*Since much data (e.g. from a WSMP) is unavailable, when this project is finished, will it be understood that it is not actually finished?*

The funding to commence a Long Term Water Supply Master Plan in 2017 was approved by the Township of Centre Wellington Council on November 28, 2016. As the Centre Wellington Tier 3 study progresses, the information developed in this project will provide the Township with a tool to assist with managing and further developing the municipal water supply system and inform the Long Term Water Supply Master Plan. The water budget can be revisited and updated as the Long Term Water Supply Master Plan and other water taking data become available.

*How can we access Stephanie Shifflet's revised Tier 2 for the Irvine Assessment Area?*

This document will be provided to the CLG members.

*What planning horizons and populations figures is this assessment using; is it looking at planning for 2041?*

Right now, the study is in the very early stages of data acquisition and review as it relates to developing the geological conceptual understanding of the study area. As outlined in the CLG Terms of Reference, the first two reports that form the water budget study are focused on understanding the geology and

hydrogeology, and groundwater model development. It's not until the third, and final stage of the study, that future population figures are assessed. The Project Team will be closely working with Township staff and planners throughout the project to ensure the most accurate and meaningful population figures are used in the study.

*With Middlebrook pump test data unavailable, will this study have access to prior pump tests and monitoring data for the Middlebrook well?*

Yes, the Project Team is working to obtain past pumping test and monitoring well data from the Middlebrook well.

*Does the project team have access to monitoring data from the Ontario Geological Survey monitor well on the property beside Middlebrook?*

The Project Team has a close working relationship with the Ontario Geological Survey, and as the study progresses, we will discuss data availability with the Ontario Geological Survey and other provincial data sources.

*We would like the certainty that an intent of this study is to identify the recharge area. What geological formations (aquifers) are going to be included in the project and how are the recharge areas going to be found for each?*

To develop an understanding of the geology and aquifers in the Township, the project consultants will gather together all available high quality information. This will include data from the Ontario Geological Survey and surrounding Tier 3 studies in the Region of Waterloo and City of Guelph, along with other local high quality geological and hydrogeological data that is made available. Matrix will characterize overburden aquifers (where present) as well as the bedrock aquifers, which will include the Guelph and Gasport Formations.

As we are still in the data collection portion of the project, the recharge areas for the bedrock aquifers are not well understood; however, our understanding of the groundwater recharge rates will be enhanced and documented in the conceptual model and water budget reports.

*Regarding using the model from the Golder 2013 TCW Wellfield Capacity Assessment, is it understood by everyone that in this study the projected population for the Fergus-Elora urban area was significantly understated?*

For the Centre Wellington Tier 3 study, population and employment projections will be used based on the upcoming 2017 Growth Management Strategy and consultation with the Township. The Project Team is working to ensure the most up-to-date and accurate data possible is used in the Tier 3 study.

*The Golder 2013 TCW model was based on the presence of aquitards between conductive bedrock formations. With pumping from deep aquifers, and sewage treatment plant discharge into the Grand River, in the water budget how do you balance this groundwater consumptive use (QDemand)?*

The project consultants are in the process of reviewing data for the project. The project consultants will review all available relevant geological and hydrogeological information to develop a conceptual model that will form the basis of a new groundwater model. The method for evaluating consumptive uses and demands will be presented in the technical reports and presented to the CLG.

*What figure is being used in the model as the static water level for the Middlebrook artesian well?*

The project consultants are in the process of acquiring data for the Middlebrook well, and the groundwater model has not been developed yet. As the model is developed, an answer can be provided to this question.

*How is the Elora Gorge going to be represented in the model?*

The project is still in the very early stage of work planning and data collection and the groundwater flow model will not be built until the characterization work is completed. As such, how the Elora Gorge will be represented is not known at this time. Once the model is developed, the Project Team will present to the CLG how the gorge has been represented in the model.

**Concerns about data from the Growth Management Plan:**

Your questions regarding the Growth Management Strategy have been forwarded to Brett Salmon, Managing Director of Planning and Development with the Township and Krista Walkey, Associate, Stantec.